

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
FIRE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
August 2001**

OFFICE OF THE FIRE ADMINISTRATOR

Commission Office

The following actions were taken at the August 9, 2001 Fire and Rescue Commission meeting:

- Commissioner Fernando Bren was elected to a one year term as FRC Vice Chair
- A request to reallocate Senator Amoss Funds for the Germantown VFD was approved.
- The Commission approved raising the deductibles for auto collision, auto comprehensive, and portable equipment. A pool will be established to fund the payment of insurance deductibles. The Commission was briefed on the loss control initiatives that have been initiated by the Fire Administrator to reverse upward trends in insurance claims.
- After extensive discussion regarding the *Code of Ethics and Personal Conduct* regulation, the Commission elected to schedule a worksession to discuss this matter.

Research and Planning

Emergency Management

Security Planning – Participated with staff of Chief Administrative Officer, Police, Community Use of Government Facilities, and Jewish community leaders to discuss security plans for Jewish religious holidays. Worked with EMG Planning Team to discuss concerns for Islamic facilities.

International Monetary Fund – EMG agencies have been meeting both locally and regionally to discuss preparedness for potential civil disorder and improvements to EMS response for the September meetings in DC. Regional meeting held in Landover with Fire and Rescue, EMS, state and local Health officials and Emergency Management, and hospitals. Improvements to regional communications discussed, with emphasis on use of EMRC and links to DC Hospital Association and DC Fire Department. EMG Health and Hospital committee reviewing federal limitations on reimbursements to health care facilities and hospitals. Looking for support from congressional delegation to assist hospitals with uninsured costs.

e- Montgomery – OEM staff have been meeting regularly with staff from DIST to finalize web based program to allow businesses to file permits for hazardous materials using HazLink database. DIST advises that HazLink has presented unique challenges. Mike Krumlauf participated in DIST workshop for county agencies to make recommendations to changes to layout of e-Montgomery webpage. E-Montgomery will be primary webpage as programs are migrated from co.mo.md.us webpages.

GEMAC/SERC - K. Henning and M. Krumlauf attended quarterly Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Committee/State Emergency Response Commission

meeting. Briefing conducted by Baltimore Fire Department command officers on tunnel fire and lessons learned. Meeting included tour of State Highway Administration CHART comprehensive traffic management system. MEMA agreed to give higher priority to establishing EAS (Emergency Alert System) in local EOC's or 911 centers. Counties had complained about lack of state planning and delays.

State Funding – New funding formula will be applied and phased in over a five year period. Meetings have been held with Maryland Emergency Management Agency and other counties to review reallocation plans for annual federal reimbursement funds for county Emergency Management programs. The new formula will combine minimum platforms for small jurisdictions, and add-ons for population and active programs. There will be decreases for the first several years. Montgomery County is expected to benefit under the long term formulas.

Annexes – EMG agencies have been working through the EMG technical committees to review and update 2001 scheduled Annexes to the Emergency Operations Plan. Changes have been negotiated to Donations Management, Animal Services, and Evacuation and Shelter. FRC recommendations needed for adoption method for Fire Rescue Disaster Plan (Annex O) to make it compatible with approval method of other annexes.

New Facility – OEM has been meeting with Fire Rescue ECC, Police ECC, and Traffic Management Center staff as part of the Allied Agencies group to review how all these groups will work together more effectively in new facility at Quince Orchard.

LHSC – Kathee Henning attended the Lowes Home Safety Council Board of Directors meeting in Greensboro, NC. K.Henning represents IAEM on the Board. Meeting emphasized strategic planning. Over \$5.1 has been raised in the past year for national home safety education programs which include *Risk Watch*, *Masters of Disaster*, and disaster preparedness. A major portion of the funds are used for the "Great Safety Adventure" traveling injury prevention trailer which visited over 100 school districts across the country last year.

School Violence – August 25th EMG conducted critique of August 1st school violence exercise. Exercise included both EOC activation and Unified Command Post. Lessons learned stressed improvements to communication, standard language between emergency responders and school officials, and review of school lock-down procedures. OEM is looking for state funding for a spring 2002 Unified Command Post training program to follow-up on lessons learned.

SAR Exercise – Planning underway for November 3-4 field statewide search and rescue exercise, to be held in Little Bennett Park. Emphasis will be on use of search dogs, command post operations, and communications. SAR volunteers have been getting corporate

Community Education Safety Section

Corporate Development Services

Automation Section

Fleet and Facilities Section

Fleet Activities

- Specifications continue to be finalized for the four (4) pumpers and one (1) aerial tower.

Facilities Activities

- Sandy Spring FS #4 construction is progressing on schedule. The new station is nearing completion with use and occupancy scheduled for mid-September 2001.
- Construction of the Collapse Rescue Team building is well underway. Substantial completion is due September 2001 and occupancy due mid-October 2001.
- The schematic floor plan for Takoma Park FS #2 has been agreed upon by all parties. Exterior design is progressing with input from the community. The site for the temporary station continues to present challenges.
- The FY03-08 Capital Improvements Program budget was substantially completed in August with cooperation from the Research and Planning Office as well as assistance from the budget office.

Grants Management Section

Property Section

DIVISION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

Bureau of Operations

Administration

Safety

Specialty Teams

Collapse Rescue/Urban Search and Rescue;

Swiftwater Rescue Team

RRATS received 17 calls for service. These calls required use of boats on 8 of the incidents. Of the total calls, 9 calls were out of the Cabin John first due area. The team continued its regular monthly training and provided instructors and equipment for the PSTA to conduct a Stillwater Boat Operator course. Sandy Spring also provided a boat for the class.

Bureau of Program Support Services

Administration

Communications

Captain Cook and Maureen Morello attending the Navigator 2001 Emergency Dispatch Summit and Conference, held on August 29 – 31.

Four personnel from ECC attended the “Crisis Communications for Dispatchers Skill Building for Suicidal, Depressed or Hostage Calls” class held at the Montgomery County PSTA. Also, 57 other student from around the reign attended the class.

Fact for August

911 Calls Answered: 10,342

911 Overflow Answered: 713

Administrative Calls Answered: 23,684

Training

Exams completed for Emergency Vehicle Driver Testing for August are:

Written	7
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Practical	8
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In-Service Training Program “Rapid Intervention Company Training” sessions were held in August with 59 DFRS students attending.

Recruit Class #20 with 39 members is scheduled to begin at the Training Academy on September 4, 2001.

The Training Academy received a new Bus 27 from the Department of Public Works and Transportation Division of Fleet Management Services. The new bus which seats 31, has been painted, serviced, emergency lights and Fire/Rescue radio were also installed.

Three career and one volunteer EMT-Paramedic were awarded charge status in August.

Bureau of Life Safety Services

Administration

Preparation continues for the 2001 Decontamination/WMD Symposium scheduled for September 27-29, 2001. Approximately 150 registrations received including participants from 21 different states.

The rewrite of the Terrorism Annex is in the final stages.

Fire Code Enforcement

All new and renovated schools were inspected and open on time. Two schools were not completed until Labor Day.

Two personnel from this office attended the "Principles of Inspection" class at the National Fire Academy from September 10 through September 21. This class was canceled on September 11 due to the terrorist attack on New York and Washington D.C. The class will be rescheduled later.

Personnel from this division assisted with the activation of the Emergency Operations Center activation on September 11 and 12.

Executive Regulations have been forwarded from this office for review by management prior to sending to the County Attorney.

Fire and Explosive Investigation

In August, Fire and Explosive Investigators investigated 18 accidental fires and 13 criminal fire related incidents. The Bomb Squad responded to a total of 7 explosive incidents, of these incidents two were for suspicious packages. The total estimated dollar loss for accidental fires was \$ 488,400 and \$ 94,020 for criminal fire related incidents. Investigators also investigated two incidents where persons were burned.

Investigators participated in two national night out events on August the 7th. The section also participated in the county's School Violence Exercise. Investigators provided training to retail security officers this month on arson and explosive awareness.

The Bomb Squad co-hosted with the FBI the Regional Bomb Technician Seminar at the PSTA. The week long training provide area bomb techs with new techniques to render safe devices, WMD and a range day at the quarry. We would like to thank the PSTA staff and C shift at Station 7 and 20 for all of the help and assistance provided to the seminar through out the week.

DIVISION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

- Attended a CIP meeting
- Was Acting EOC Manager for the school violence exercise
- Participated in a bill passage (signing) by the County Executive
- Acted as Fire Administrator in his absence
- Attended the annual briefing to the CAO by the EMG
- Attended the pre meeting for the goal setting conference
- Attended the Md. Metro Chiefs Committee at MIEMSS
- Visited the County Fair

- Met with the Fire Administrator, Pres. White, Chief Stanton, Dep. Chief Allwang and Capt. Radcliffe regarding KVFD issues
- Met with the Safety Policy Steering Committee
- Attended the critique for the school violence exercise
- Attended the ICHIEFS Convention in New Orleans
- Participated in the graduation exercises for two volunteer EMT classes and one volunteer essentials class
- Attended the Fire Board, Human Relations, Safety and Training, FRC, Fire-Rescue Association, Operations Committees meetings
- Mediated personal, personnel and/or sensitive issues with various LFRDs, etc.